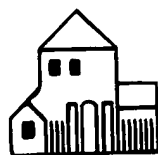

RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

Second Edition



RANDOM HOUSE
NEW YORK

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scream-ing-mee-mies (skrē'ming mē'mēz), *n.* (used with a singular or plural *v.*) Informal. extreme nervousness; hysteria (usually prec. by thee). [1925-30; redupl. with alter. of SCREAMING; see -y², -s²]

scree (skrē), *n.* a steep mass of detritus on the side of a mountain. [1775-85; < ON *skrithra* landslide]

screech (skrēch), *v.i.* 1. to utter or make a harsh, shrill cry or sound: *The child screeched hysterically. The brakes screeched.* —*v.t.* 2. to utter with a screech: *She screeched her warning.* —*n.* 3. a harsh, shrill cry or sound: *an owl's screech; the screech of brakes.* [1550-60; var. of obs. *scritch* to scream; akin to SCRAEK] —**screech'er**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. See **scream**.

screech-ing (skrē'ching), *adj.* 1. causing or uttering screeches: *screeching bats.* 2. characteristic of screeches; harshly shrill: *a screeching tone.* —*n.* 3. the act or sound of a person or thing that screeches. [1610-20; SCREECH + -ING², -ING¹] —**screech-ing-ly**, *adv.*

screech' owl', 1. any of numerous small American owls of the genus *Otus*, having hornlike tufts of feathers as *O. asio*, of eastern North America. 2. (not in technical use) any owl having a harsh cry, esp. the barn owl. Also, **screech'-owl'**. [1585-95]



screech' owl,
Otus asio,
length 9 in.
(23 cm)

screech-y (skrē'chē), *adj.* **screech-ler**, **screech-iest**. 1. like or suggesting screeching. 2. producing screeches: *a screechy door.* [1820-30; SCREECH + -Y¹]

screed (skrēd), *n.* 1. a long discourse or essay, esp. a diatribe. 2. an informal letter, account, or other piece of writing. 3. **Building Trades**. a. a strip of plaster or wood applied to a surface to be plastered to serve as a guide for making a true surface. b. a wooden strip serving as a guide for making a true level surface on a concrete pavement or the like. c. a board or metal strip dragged across a freshly poured concrete slab to give it its proper level. 4. *Brit. Dial.* a fragment or shred, as of cloth. 5. *Scot.* a. a tear or rip, esp. in cloth. b. a drinking bout. —*v.t.*, *v.i.* 6. *Scot.* to tear, rip, or shred, as cloth. [1275-1325; ME *screde* torn fragment, irreg. (with *sc-* for *sh-*) repr. OE *scrāde* SHRED]

screen (skrēn), *n.* 1. a movable or fixed device, usually consisting of a covered frame, that provides shelter serves as a partition, etc. 2. a permanent, usually ornamental partition, as around the choir of a church or across the hall of a medieval house. 3. a specially prepared, light-reflecting surface on which motion pictures, slides, etc., may be projected. 4. motion pictures collectively or the motion-picture industry. 5. **Electronics**. **Television**. the external surface of the large end of a cathode-ray tube of a television set, radar receiver, etc., on which an electronically created picture or image is formed. 6. **Computers**. a. Also called **video screen**, the portion of a terminal or monitor upon which information is displayed. b. frame (def. 10). 7. anything that shelters, protects, or conceals: *a screen of secrecy; A screen of fog prevented our seeing the ship.* 8. a frame holding a mesh of wire, cloth, or plastic, for placing in a window or doorway, around a porch, etc., to admit air but exclude insects. 9. a sieve, riddle, or other meshlike device used to separate smaller particles or objects from larger ones, as for grain or sand. 10. a system for screening or grouping people, objects, etc. 11. *Mil.* a body of troops sent out to protect the movement of an army. 12. **Navy**. a protective formation of small vessels, as destroyers, around or in front of a larger ship or ships. 13. **Physics**. a shield designed to prevent interference between various agencies: *electric screen.* 14. **Electronics**. See **screen grid**. 15. **Photog.** a plate of ground glass or the like on which the image is brought into focus in a camera before being photographed. 16. **Photoengraving**. a transparent plate containing two sets of fine parallel lines, one crossing the other, used in the halftone process. 17. **Sports**. a. any of various offensive plays in which teammates form a protective formation around the ball carrier, pass receiver, shooter, etc. b. any of various defensive plays in which teammates conceal or block an opposing ball carrier, pass receiver, shooter, or the goal, basket, net, etc., itself. —*v.t.* 18. to shelter, protect, or conceal with or as if with a screen. 19. to select, reject, consider, or group (people, objects, ideas, etc.) by examining systematically: *Job applicants were screened by the personnel department.* 20. to provide with a screen or screens to exclude insects: *He screened the porch so they could enjoy sitting out on summer evenings.* 21. to sift or sort by passing through a screen. 22. to project (a motion picture, slide, etc.) on a screen. 23. **Motion Pictures**. a. to show (a motion picture), esp. to an invited audience, as of exhibitors and critics. b. to photograph with a motion-picture camera; film. c. to adapt (a story, play, etc.) for presentation as a motion picture. 24. to lighten (type or areas of a line engraving) by etching a regular pattern of dots or lines into the printing surface. —*v.i.* 25. to be projected on the printing surface: *The picture screened.* [1350-1400; ME *scrēnen* (*n.*) < AF, OF *escren* (F *écran*) < Frankish **skrank*, *c.* OHG *scrank* barrier (G *Schrank* cupboard)] —**screen-a-ble**, *adj.*

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pūr; est, ēqual; if, ice; ox, ūer, ōrder, oil, bōok, bōat, out, up, ūrge; child; sing; shoe; thin; that; zh as in treasure. o = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; a = as in fire (fī'r), hour (ou'r). l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.



—screen/er, n. —screen/less, adj. —screen/like/, adj.

—Syn. 7. guard, shield. See cover. 18. veil, defend, shield, hide, mask.

Screen/ Ac/tors Guild/, a labor union for motion-picture performers, founded in 1933. Abb.: SAG

screen/ grid/, *Electronics*. A grid placed between the anode and the control electrode in a vacuum tube, usually maintained at a fixed positive potential. [1925-30]

screen-ing (skrē'ning), n. 1. the act or work of a person who screens, as in ascertaining the character and competence of applicants, employees, etc. 2. the showing of a motion picture: *There will be screenings at 6 P.M. and 8 P.M.* 3. **screenings**, (used with a singular or plural v.) a. undesirable material that has been separated from usable material by means of a screen or sieve: *screenings of imperfect grain.* b. extremely fine coal. 4. the meshed material used in screens for windows and doors. [1715-25; SCREEN + -ING]

screen-land (skrēn'land'), n. filmworld. [1920-25; SCREEN + -LAND]

screen/ mem/ory, *Psychoanal.* a childhood memory, perhaps recalled falsely, that screens out a more distressing recollection. [1920-25]

screen-o (skrē'nō), n. (sometimes cap.) (formerly) bingo played in a movie theater. [SCREEN + (BING)O]

screen/ pass/, *Football*. a pass thrown to a receiver who is directly in back of a wall of blockers and who is behind or not far beyond the line of scrimmage. [1950-55]

screen-play (skrēn'plā'), n. 1. a motion-picture or television scenario. 2. *Older Use.* a motion picture. [1915-20; SCREEN + PLAY]

screen/ test/, a filmed audition to determine the suitability of an individual for appearing or acting in a motion picture. [1920-25]

screen-test (skrēn'test'), v.t. 1. to give a screen test to: *The studio screen-tested 400 children before casting the part.* —v.i. 2. to undergo a screen test: *Dozens of actors have screen-tested for the role.* [1965-70; v. use of n. phrase screen test]

screen-wip-er (skrēn'wī'pər), n. *Brit.* See wind-shield wiper. [1925-30]

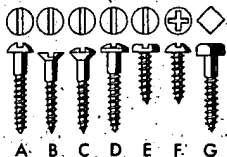
screen-writ-er (skrēn'ri'tər), n. a person who writes screenplays, esp. as an occupation or profession. [1920-25; SCREEN + WRITER]

screen-er (skrē'vər), n. *Chiefly Brit.* an artist who draws pictures on sidewalks, as with colored chalks, earning a living from the donations of spectators and passersby. [1875-80; earlier screwee (v.) (< Polari) < It scriuere to write (< L scribere) + -er]

SCREW (skrōd), n. 1. a metal fastener having a tapered shank with a helical thread, and topped with a slotted head, driven into wood or the like by rotating, esp. by means of a screwdriver. 2. a threaded cylindrical pin or rod with a head at one end, engaging a threaded hole and used either as a fastener or as a simple machine for applying power, as in a clamp, jack, etc. Cf. **bolt** (def. 3). 3. *Brit.* a tapped or threaded hole. 4. something having a spiral form. 5. See **screw propeller**. 6. Usually, **screws**, physical or mental coercion: *The terrified debtor soon felt the gangster's screws.* 7. a single turn of a screw. 8. a twist, turn, or twisting movement. 9. *Chiefly Brit.* a little salt, sugar, tobacco, etc., carried in a twist of paper. 10. *Slang.* a mean, old, or worn-out horse; a horse from which one can obtain no further service. 11. *Slang.* a friend or employer from whom one can obtain no more money. 12. *Slang.* a miser. 13. *Brit. Informal.* salary; wages. 14. *Slang.* a prison guard. 15. *Slang (vulgar).* a. an act of coitus. b. a person viewed as a sexual partner. 16. *Slang.* to be eccentric or neurotic; have crazy ideas: *Put the screws on, to compel by exerting pressure on; use coercion on; force: They kept putting the screws on him for more money.* 17. *Slang.* to fasten, tighten, force, press, stretch tight, etc., by or as if by means of a screw or device operated by a screw or helical threads. 18. to operate or adjust by a screw, as a press. 19. to attach with a screw or screws: *to screw a bracket to a wall.* 20. to insert, fasten, undo, or work (a screw, bolt, nut, bottle top with a helical thread, etc.) by turning. 21. to contort as by twisting; distort: *Father screwed his face into a grimace of disgust.* 22. to cause to become sufficiently strong or intense (usually fol. by up): *I screwed up my courage to ask for a raise.* 23. to coerce or threaten. 24. to extract or extort. 25. to force (a seller) to lower a price (often fol. by down). 26. *Slang.* to cheat or take advantage of (someone). 27. *Slang (vulgar).* to have coitus with. 28. to turn as or like a screw. 29. to be adapted for being connected, taken apart, opened, or closed by means of a screw or screws or parts with helical threads (usually fol. by on, together, or off): *This top screws on easily.* 30. to turn or move with a twisting or rotating motion. 31. to practice extortion. 32. *Slang (vulgar).* to have coitus. 33. *Slang.* to waste time in foolish or frivolous activity: *If you'd stop screwing around we could get this job done.* 34. *Vulgar.* to engage in promiscuous sex. 35. *Slang.* to do nothing; loaf. 36. to leave; go away. 37. *Slang.* to ruin through bungling or stupidity: *Something the engineers screwed up the entire construction project.* 38. to make a botch of something; blunder. 39. to make confused, anxious, or neurotic. [1375-1425; late ME *scrue*, *scruwe* (n.); cf. MF *escro* (ue) nut, MD *schrube*, MHG *schrube* screw] —**screw/a-ble**, adj. —**screw/er**, n. —**screw/less**, adj. —**screw/like/**, adj. —**Syn.** 22. wring, wrest, force, exact, squeeze.

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; * , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

screws (def. 1) and screwheads
A, round head; B, flat head;
C, oval head; D, fillister
head; E, metal screw;
F, Phillips head screw;
G, lag screw



screw/ an/chor, *Naut.* See **mooring screw**.

screw/ au/ger, an auger having a helical outer surface suggesting a screw thread. [1785-95, Amer.]

screw/ ax/is, *Crystall.* a symmetry element of a space group such that a rotation of the lattice about the axis and a translation of the lattice some fraction of the lattice's unit distance brings the lattice back to its original position. [1900-05]

screw-ball (skrōd'bōl'), n. 1. *Slang.* an eccentric or whimsically eccentric person; a nut. 2. *Baseball.* a pitched ball that curves toward the side of the plate from which it was thrown. —adj. 3. *Slang.* eccentric or whimsically eccentric: *What a screwball idea!* [1865-70; 1935-40 for def. 2; SCREW + BALL]

screw/ bean/, 1. a tree, *Prosopis pubescens*, of the legume family, native to the southwestern U.S., bearing twisted pods used as fodder. 2. the pod itself. Also called **tornillo**. [1865-70, Amer.]

screw/ cap/, a cap designed to screw onto the threaded mouth of a bottle, jar, or the like. [1870-75]

screw/ convey/or, a device for moving loose materials, consisting of a shaft with a broad, helically wound blade rotating in a tube or trough. Also called **worm**.

screw-driver (skrōd'dri'vər), n. 1. a hand tool for turning a screw, consisting of a handle attached to a long, narrow shank, usually of metal, which tapers and flattens out to a tip that fits into the slotted head of a screw. 2. a mixed drink made with vodka and orange juice. [1770-80; SCREW + DRIVER]

screwed (skrōd), adj. 1. fastened with screws. 2. having grooves like a screw; threaded. 3. twisted; awry. 4. *Slang.* bilked; cheated. 5. *Chiefly Brit. Slang.* drunk; intoxicated. [1640-50; SCREW + -ED]

screw/ eye/, a screw having a ring-shaped head. [1870-75]

screw/ fly/. See **screwworm fly**. [1880-85]

screw-head (skrōd'hed'), n. the head or top of a screw having a slot for the end of a screwdriver. See **diag.** under **screw**. [1680-90; SCREW + HEAD]

screw/ hook/, a hook having a shank in the form of a screw. [1680-90]

screw/ jack/, jackscrew. [1710-20]

screw/ log/, *Naut.* See **patent log**.

screw/ moor/ing, *Naut.* See **mooring screw**.

screw/ nail/. See **drive screw**. [1650-60]

screw/ nut/, a nut threaded to receive a screw. [1805-15]

screw-off (skrōd'ōf', -ōf'), n. *Slang.* a loafer; idler. Also, **screw/off/**. [n. use of v. phrase screw off]

screw-on (skrōd'ōn', -ōn'), adj. 1. attached, connected, or closed by screwing onto another part of a container or receptacle. 2. (of an earring) held on the earlobe by a small screwlike post with a disk at the tip. [1925-30; adj. use of v. phrase screw on]

screw/ pile/, a pile that is used for the foundations of bridges, lighthouses, etc., and has a screwlike lower end for drilling through and taking firm hold in compacted material. [1830-40] —**screw/ pil/ing**.

screw/ pine/, any tropical Asian tree or shrub of the genus *Pandanus*, having a palmlike or branched stem, long, narrow, rigid, spirally arranged leaves and aerial roots, and bearing an edible fruit. [1830-40]

screw-plate (skrōd'plāt'), n. a metal plate having threaded holes, used for cutting screw threads by hand. Also, **screw/ plate/**. [1650-60; SCREW + PLATE]

screw/ press/, a device for applying pressure by the turning of a threaded shaft. [1680-90]

screw/ propel/er, a rotary propelling device, as for a ship or airplane, consisting of a number of blades that radiate from a central hub and are so inclined to the plane of rotation as to tend to drive a helical path through the substance in which they rotate. [1830-40] —**screw/-pro-pelled/**, adj.

screw/ thread/, 1. Also called **worm**. the helical ridge of a screw. 2. a full turn of the helical ridge of a screw. [1805-15]

screw-top (skrōd'top'), adj. 1. (of a container) having a top that screws on. —n. 2. a top that can be screwed onto a container. 3. a container having such a top. [1890-95]

screw-up (skrōd'up'), n. *Slang.* 1. a mistake or blunder: *The package was delayed through an addressing screw-up.* 2. a habitual blunderer. Also, **screw/up/**. [1955-60; Amer.; n. use of v. phrase screw up]

screw-worm (skrōd'wūrm'), n. the larva of any of certain flies of the genus *Callitroga*, which sometimes infests wounds and the nose and navel of domestic animals and humans. [1875-80, Amer.; SCREW + WORM]

screw/worm fly/, the adult screwworm. Also called **screw fly**. [1905-10; Amer.]

screw-y (skrōd'ē), adj., **screw-i-er**, **screw-i-est**. *Slang.* 1. crazy; nutty: *I think you're screwy, refusing an invitation to the governor's dinner.* 2. disconcertingly strange: *There's something screwy about his story.* 3. absurdly peculiar or impractical; ridiculous: *screwy ideas*. [1810-20; SCREW + -Y]

Scria-bin (skrē ā'bin; Russ. skryā'byin), n. **A-le-kean-**

dr Ni-ko-la-e-vich (al'ig zan'dar nik'e li'e vich; Russ. u lyi kaān'da nyi ku lā'yi vyich), 1872-1918, Russian composer and pianist.

scribble (skrib'əl), v., -bled, -bling, n. —v. 1. to write hastily or carelessly: *to scribble a letter.* 2. to cover with meaningless writing or marks: *scribble over a page.* —v.i. 3. to write or draw in a hasty, careless way. 4. to make meaningless marks, scribbles, etc., with a pencil, pen, or the like. —n. 5. a hasty or careless drawing or piece of writing. 6. a scribble, esp. when illegible. [1425-75; late ME scribbelen (v.) < ML scribillare to scribble, deriv. of L scribere to write; see SHRIVE] —**scribble/ing-ly**, adv.

scribble (skrib'əl), v.t., -bled, -bling, to tear apart scribbelen to scratch; c. scribbelen to card, wool coarsely, freq. of scribbelen to scribble

scrib-ble (skrib'blə), n. 1. a writer whose work has little or no value or importance. 2. a person who scribbles. [1845-55; SCRIBBLE + -ER]

scrib-ble (skrib'blə), n. a machine for scribbling wool fibers. [1675-85; SCRIBBLE + -ER]

scribble block/, *Brit.* See **scratch pad**. [1930-10]

scribe (skrib), n., v., scribed, scribing. —n. 1. a person who serves as a professional copyist, esp. one who made copies of manuscripts before the invention of printing. 2. a public clerk or writer, usually one having official status. 3. Also called **sopher**, **sotfer**, **Judean**, one of the group of Palestinian scholars and teachers of Jewish law and tradition, active from the 6th century B.C. to the 1st century A.D., who transcribed, edited, and interpreted the Bible. 4. a writer or author, esp. a novelist. —v.i. 5. to act as a scribe; write. —v.t. 6. to write down. [1350-1400; ME < L scriba clerk, deriv. of scribere to write] —**scrib/al**, adj.

scribe (skrib), v., scribed, scribing. —v.t. 1. to mark or score (wood or the like) with a pointed instrument as a guide to cutting or assembling. —n. 2. scribe. [1670-80; perh. aph. form of INSCRIBE]

Scribe (skrīb), n. **Au-gus-tin Eu-gène** (ō gūstīn æ zhen'), 1791-1861, French dramatist.

scriber (skri'bər), n. a tool for scribing wood or the like. Also, **scribo**. [1825-35; SCRIBE + -ER]

scrim (skrim), n. 1. a cotton or linen fabric of coarse weave used for bunting, curtains, etc. 2. *Theat.* a piece of such fabric used as a drop, border, or the like, for creating the illusion of a solid wall or backdrop under certain lighting conditions or creating a semitransparent curtain when lit from behind. [1785-95; orig. uncert.]

scrim-mage (skrim'ij), n., v., -maged, -mag-ing. —n. 1. a rough or vigorous struggle. 2. *Football.* the action that takes place between the teams from the time the ball is snapped until it is declared dead. **Crash of scrimmage**, b. a practice session or informal game as that played between two units of the same team. —v.t. 3. to engage in a scrimmage. [1425-75; late ME var. of scrimish, metathetic form of SKRIMP] —**scrim-mag-er**, n.

scrim/mage line/. See **line of scrimmage**. [1670-80]

skrimp (skrimp), v.i. 1. to be sparing or frugal, economize (often fol. by on): *They skrimped and saved for everything they have.* He spends most of his money on clothes, and skrimps on food. —v.t. 2. to be sparing or restrictive of or in; limit severely: *to skrimp food.* 3. to keep on short allowance; provide sparingly for: *to skrimp their elderly parents.* [1710-20; < Scand.; cf. Skrympa, Norw., Dan skrumpe (orig. 'skrimpa; strong) to shrivel, c. MHG skrimpfen to contract; see SKIMP] —**Syn.** 1. skimp, stint, save, scrape.

skrimpy (skrim'pē), adj., **skrimp-i-er**, **skrimp-i-est**. 1. scanty; meager; barely adequate. 2. tending to skrimp; frugal; parsimonious. [1850-55; SKRIMP + -Y] —**skrimp/i-ly**, adv. —**skrimp/i-ness**, n.

skrim-shank (skrim'shank'), v.i. *Brit. Slang.* to avoid one's obligations or share of work; shirk. [1850-90; orig. uncert.] —**skrim/shank-er**, n.

scripshaw (skrim'shō'), n. 1. a carved or engraved article, esp. of whale ivory, walrus bone, walrus tusk, etc., made by whalers as a leisure occupation. 2. such articles or work collectively. 3. the art or technique of carving or engraving whale ivory, walrus tusks, etc. —v.t. 4. to produce scrimshaw. 5. to carve or engrave (whale ivory or walrus bone) scrimshaw. [1860-65; of obscure orig.]

scrip-i-um (skrin'ē am), n., pl. **scrip-i-a** (skrin'ē o), a cylindrical container used in ancient Rome to hold papyrus rolls. [< L scriinium; see SHRINE]

scrip (skrip), n. 1. a receipt, certificate, list, or similar brief piece of writing. 2. a scrap of paper. 3. *Finance.* a. a certificate representing a fraction of a share of stock. b. a certificate to be exchanged for goods in a company store. c. a certificate indicating the right of a holder to receive payment later in the form of goods, or land. 4. paper currency issued in the United States. [1610-20; earliest sense "scrap of paper" gradational var. of SCRAP; subsequent sense "document" shows influence of SCRIPT and SUBSCRIPTION; def. 3a specifically a shortening of subscription receipt] —**scrip/less**, adj.

scrip (skrip), n. *Archaic.* a bag or wallet carried by wayfarers. [1250-1300; ME scrippe < ML scrippula grim's pack < ?]

scrip (skrip), n. *Informal.* a prescription; a drug. [1965-70; shortening of PRESCRIPTION]

scrip/ div/idend, a dividend issued in the form of a note entitling the holder to a cash payment at a specified later date. [1880-85]

scrip-o-phile (skrip'ō fil'), n. a person who practices scripophily. Also, **scripoph-i-list** (skri'pō-fil-ist) [1975-80; SCRIP + -O- + -PHILE]